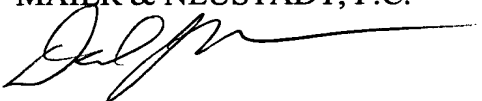


REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are active in the present application. The claims are amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--3. (Amended) An aqueous dispersion of a water-soluble polymer as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the dispersion contains as component (A) a homopolymer of N-vinylformamide.

4. (Amended) An aqueous dispersion of a water-soluble polymer as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the N-vinylformamide units and/or vinylacetamide units of the polymer (A) have been partially or completely converted into a polymer containing vinylamine units by hydrolysis with acids or bases.

7. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 5 [or 6], wherein the polymeric dispersants (B) used are polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, copolymers of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyridine, polyvinylimidazole, polyvinylsuccinimide, polydiallyldimethylammonium chloride, polyethyleneimine and mixtures thereof.

8. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 5 to 7] claim 5, wherein (A) N-vinylformamide, if desired together with other monoethylenically unsaturated monomers, and

(B) polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone or mixtures thereof

are polymerized at from 40 to 55°C with water-soluble azo initiators.--